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Grand Marshall William Coats leads the parade celebrating St. Lucie County's formation on July 1, 1905.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

The New St. Lucie County Administration Building Addition on Virginia Avenue in Fort Pierce.



message from the commissioners

Dear Residents & Visitors of St. Lucie County:

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the St. Lucie County 2004 Annual Report. Last year was a historic year for the County in many ways. We were hit by two major hurricanes in September, but not one month makes a year! Prior to September, St. Lucie County was moving forward with many projects to provide more services and better government for residents and visitors. Although still recovering on many fronts from the storms of 2004, St. Lucie County continues to move forward on projects to better enhance the quality of life you demand and deserve. This report highlights just a few of the accomplishments of St. Lucie County this past year. We welcome you to share in our pride and honor knowing we are working harder than ever to serve you.

Sincerely,



Frannie Hutchinson, Chairman



Mission Statement:

To provide service, infrastructure, and leadership necessary to advance a safe community, maintain a high quality of life, and protect the natural environment for all our citizens.

*St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners
(left to right): Doug Coward, Vice Chairman, District 2;
Frannie Hutchinson, Chairman, District 4;
Chris Craft, District 5; Paula A. Lewis, District 3;
Joseph E. Smith, District 1*



message from the county administrator

Dear Citizens of St. Lucie County and Visitors:

As a result of Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne directly hitting us within three weeks of each other and Hurricane Ivan soaking us in between, 2004 was probably one of the most challenging years in the County's history. However, I am not going to dwell on that. When all of the repairs are made and all of the financial issues are unraveled, St. Lucie County will have a newness about it like we have never seen before and will be stronger than ever. Just wait and see!

As we go into 2005 County staff and myself are excited. Yes, we did lose two seasoned Commissioners in Cliff Barnes and John Bruhn who went on to other careers. We wish them well. However, we gained two new young, bright Commissioners in Chris Craft and Joseph E. Smith who have the energy of youth and share the excitement for St. Lucie County. This, coupled with our three seasoned Commissioners, Frannie Hutchinson, Paula A. Lewis and Doug Coward, will enable us to move forward in a dynamic manner.

St. Lucie County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. In an effort to stay ahead of the pace we have an aggressive capital program that includes the continued construction and renovation of county buildings such as the new \$6.9 million Clerk of the Courts Building in downtown Fort Pierce that will go under construction this summer and infrastructure improvements such as the \$13 million widening of South 25th Street from Midway Road to Edwards Road that will also go under construction later this year. The Lakewood Park Regional Park is under construction at a cost of \$13 million. It is scheduled to be completed in 2006. We have stepped up our planning efforts whereby the County Commissioners have budgeted \$1 million to implement the North County Charrette that will become the development tool for the North County and a model for the State. The goal of this planning effort is to develop the North County using smart growth practices, the knowledge of residents and state of the art expertise and technology.

We are continuing the development of an 1,800-acre State recognized Research and Education Park. This year we are establishing a Research and Education Park Authority in conjunction with the University of Florida and having the Park become State certified. This Park will bring high paying technical jobs to our community and make the County a leader in research and education complementing existing research and education facilities in our community such as the United States Department of Agriculture Horticulture Lab, Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce, Indian River Research and Education Center, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution and the new Center for Excellence in Biomedical and Marine Biotechnology.

This past year we did suffer bumps and bruises, however, we continue our progress in reconstruction and financial recovery efforts along with our aggressive capital improvement program. Yes, we are excited about our future. Thank you for your continued support as we move forward together!

Sincerely,
Douglas M. Anderson,
County Administrator

County Administrator



Douglas M. Anderson

Assistant County Administrators



Faye Outlaw



Ray Wazny

Airport Accomplishments:

- ▶ Hosted and helped coordinate the first-ever Wings 'n Wheels Air & Military Vehicle Show that saw 17,000 visitors.
- ▶ Completed the Environmental Assessment for the proposed construction of runway 9L-27R.
- ▶ Rehabilitated Runway 14/32.
- ▶ Began work on the upgrade of all the airfield lighting.
- ▶ Completed fencing of the airport businesses.
- ▶ Completed the Noise Study.
- ▶ Began Taxiway "A" extension work.



First Fort Pierce airfield in 1930s, located where the Indian Hills Golf Course is now. Photo courtesy of the St. Lucie County Historical Museum.

airport

St. Lucie County International Airport employs a staff of eight, five maintenance and three administrative personnel and maintains the safety and security of 3,660 acres in North County. The mission is to operate and manage St. Lucie County International Airport in a safe and efficient manner, to serve general aviation and the air transportation needs of the community, by promoting a positive relationship with our neighbors and users, while maintaining a financially self-sustaining basis, generating full use of airport owned properties for commercial and industrial business.



Hurricane damage to airport hangar.

The airport sustained approximately \$30 million in damage to buildings from Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne. Additionally, the airport hosts over 1,000 emergency shelter travel trailers being utilized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in their continuing effort to provide housing to those who have lost their home during the storms.



Wings 'n Wheels Air and Military Vehicle Show.

The Central Services mission is: “While we maintain all County facilities, oversee remodeling and new construction, we will offer prompt professional assistance at the highest quality.” The Central Services Department is comprised of seven divisions: Administration, General Maintenance, Administrative Judicial Maintenance, Air-Conditioning, Rock Road Jail Maintenance, Housekeeping and the Service Garage. There are 57 full-time and 35 part-time employees.

As St. Lucie County continues to grow, the role of this department is to support that growth by upgrading many of the County facilities as well as new construction to meet the needs of all County employees who serve the community. In addition to ongoing projects, this year St. Lucie County faced two new challenges: Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne. Central Services jumped into action immediately after the storms by going into the field to assess property damage. With Hurricane Frances, 45 buildings maintained by Central Services received damage along with three boat ramps, 16 dune crossovers and two docks. The estimated cost in damage was \$20 million. With Hurricane Jeanne, 41 buildings received damage along with six lifeguard towers and one boat ramp. The estimated cost in damage was \$1.4 million.



Dragline, Fort Pierce Farms, 1920s. Photo courtesy of the St. Lucie County Historical Museum.

- ▶ Constructed new storage building at Ilous Ellis Park.
- ▶ Built a Pole Barn at Agriculture Department.
- ▶ Constructed two dune crossovers at Pepper Park.
- ▶ Constructed a storage building at Road and Bridge Department.
- ▶ Coordinated the plan and broke ground on construction of the new jail pods at the St. Lucie County Jail.
- ▶ Replaced the roof, replaced kitchen tiles, installed eight 250-gallon water heaters, installed one 300-gallon water heater at the St. Lucie County Jail.
- ▶ Constructed a new roof and pavilion, constructed ten wood benches, built a new roadway and parking area, built an activity pavilion and canoe storage area at the Savannas Campground.
- ▶ Installed new fencing at the Lawnwood Tennis Courts and Morningside Library.
- ▶ Completed renovation projects at the Recreation Division Office, Lincoln Park Community Center, Hurston Branch Library, Oxbow Eco-Center, Walton Community Center, Roger Poitras Building-Elections Office, W.I.C. Office, Election Warehouse.



Construction of the new jail pods at the St. Lucie County Jail.

Community Services Accomplishments:

- ▶ After Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, Community Services staff members:
 - Manned the St. Lucie County Emergency Phone Bank which handled calls for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Blue Roof Program and the FEMA Temporary Housing Strike Team.
 - Coordinated the "tarp program."
 - Coordinated donations with residents' needs and coordinated all volunteer efforts.
 - Administered the Dr. Singh Hurricane Relief fund.
- ▶ Worked with the Council on Aging of St. Lucie, Inc., to determine East-West Connector Routes to the Treasure Coast Connector (U.S. 1 Fixed Route Service) that will provide enhanced Fixed Route service to our residents.
- ▶ Administered contracts and grants that provided many needed services in the amount of \$7,667,787.
- ▶ Received a \$50,000 grant for Water Saving Incentives and a \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant.
- ▶ Processed applications for assistance with Christmas toys for 500 families with 1,187 children in partnership with WPSL 1590 AM Radio.



Brighton Seminole Family, 1900. Photo courtesy of the St. Lucie County Historical Museum.

community services

The Community Services Division is comprised of five departments including the Housing Department, Treasure Coast Community Action Agency, Social Services Department, Grants/Contracts Department and Transportation Department. The services include down payment and closing cost assistant for income eligible families to purchase a home, assistance for emergency repairs to owner occupied homes, assistance with rent and utility bills to assist low income families to become self sufficient, indigent cremation services, referrals for services with other agencies, administration of grants and coordination of the transit system for St. Lucie County.

Community Services assisted in the coordination of the "Blue Tarp" program after both Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne.



Community Services assisted in the toy drive and distribution for the WPSL Christmas Kids program.

cooperative extension

Cooperative Extension Accomplishments:

The St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension office provides assistance in St. Lucie County in several areas: Agribusiness, 4-H, Natural Resources and Energy Conservation, Family and Consumer Sciences, Marine Science, Commercial and Homeowner Horticulture and Commercial Citrus Production. The staff consists of seven Extension Agents, one Multi-County Agent housed in Martin County, three full-time Program Assistants, one executive secretary, five office assistants and a maintenance technician. The continued cooperative effort between the Agriculture office and the St. Lucie County School Board includes an Agriscience Instructor/Leader and a Vocational Agricultural Technician. The Department has 55 Master Gardeners that volunteered 8,900 hours assisting homeowners' concerns and 2,065 adult volunteers that play a role in the St. Lucie County 4-H program reaching over 24,500 youth in St. Lucie County.

*Extension Agents Ken Gioeli and Sue Munyan
release the new tropical soda apple beetles.*



*Original herd of Adams Ranch Braford cows. Photo
courtesy of the St. Lucie County Historical Museum.*

- ▶ Received the Award of Excellence for the Master Gardeners' for their work with local public radio station WQCS, 88.9 FM to produce daily radio spots entitled "The Green Thumb."
- ▶ Developed a new environmental youth program focusing on the Savanna's unique environment.
- ▶ Developed curriculum and partnership between the Master Gardeners and Heathcote Botanical Gardens to provide educational tours and programming for school children.
- ▶ Provided training for over 500 professionals in pesticide application, invasive plant management, pesticides and biological control of invasive species.
- ▶ Staged a successful release and stabilization of a Biological Control agent for the invasive Tropical Soda Apple.
- ▶ Recycled over 50 pounds of fishing line collected from recycling bins.
- ▶ Trained and certified 3,017 citrus production workers and managers on Best Management Practices (BMP).
- ▶ Demonstrated the potential for farming marine shrimp utilizing mineral rich freshwater from the Floridian aquifer.
- ▶ Certified seven marinas with the "Clean Marina and Boatyard" Program.
- ▶ Provided post-hurricane guidance for 585 industry growers and producers.



Cultural Affairs Accomplishments:

- ▶ Won the 2004-05 Florida Redevelopment Association's "Roy W. Kenzie Award" for Outstanding Cultural Enhancement in the State for the Zora Neale Hurston Dust Tracks Heritage Trail.
- ▶ Published ArtsView magazine focusing on the Art in Public Places program.
- ▶ Initiated one of the largest sculpture shows in the United States, presenting 41 pieces of noted Connecticut-based artist David Hayes' work on display for one year at Tradition and Fort Pierce.
- ▶ Installed the first commissioned piece in the Art in Public Places program, the Marine Center's "Partnership" by Pat Cochran and Ginny Piech-Street.
- ▶ Restored famed Highwayman painter Alfred Hair's gravesite.
- ▶ Initiated major collections conservation program at Historical Museum.
- ▶ Installed new permanent exhibits at Marine Center.



A.E. "Bean" Backus at work. Photo courtesy of the St. Lucie County Historical Museum.

cultural affairs

Cultural Affairs is responsible for the development and administration of the County's museum assets including the St. Lucie County Historical Museum, Marine Center (containing the Smithsonian Marine Ecosystem Exhibit), Navy SEAL Museum and the future Old Orange Avenue Post Office History and Humanities Center. It manages the affairs of the Cultural Affairs Council, the Historical Commission and oversees the County's Art in Public Places program. The Cultural Affairs Department interfaces with over 40 local non-profit organizations in the community to address key "quality of life" issues through the Cultural Affairs Council's mini-grant program.

"The Partnership"



grants

The County's two grants writers experienced a highly successful year. The number of grant applications submitted increased by 31% from 42 to 55. Grants were written for 12 county departments/divisions. This represents a significant increase in utilization of the grants writers' services. Most importantly, the amount of grant funds received increased by 59% to \$11.2 million.



Taylor Creek Dredging Project Ground Breaking Ceremony

Heathcote Botanical Gardens



Grants Received:

- ▶ \$200,000 for improvements to Lawnwood Recreation Area.
- ▶ \$4.2 million to expand Heathcote Botanical Gardens.
- ▶ \$725,000 for the Paradise Park stormwater system.
- ▶ \$50,000 to retrofit plumbing in low-income housing.
- ▶ \$744,000 to acquire environmentally sensitive lands on Ten Mile Creek.
- ▶ \$2.4 million to expand Paleo Hammock Preserve.
- ▶ \$500,000 for a new library in Port St. Lucie.
- ▶ \$267,000 for Taylor Creek dredging.



Shark fishing in the Indian River. Photo courtesy of the St. Lucie County Historical Museum.

Growth Management Accomplishments:

- ▶ Hosted the North County Charrette, the South Beach Mini-Charrette and the White City Mini-Charrette.
- ▶ Broadened target industries and improved monitoring system and audit for Economic Development.
- ▶ Initiated Historic Preservation Regulations.
- ▶ Initiated Countywide Commercial Architectural Standards.
- ▶ Initiated Community Pride Neighborhood Enhancement Program.
- ▶ Initiated Urban Service Boundary Review.
- ▶ Spearheaded the conversion of the permitting software for the Building, Zoning and Code Enforcement Divisions of Public Works.
- ▶ Tourism & Economic Development staff successfully recruited Evolution Film & Tape of Los Angeles to shoot two seasons of the Animal Planet reality show "King of the Jungle" in St. Lucie County, resulting in more than 2,220 room nights being occupied from late May to mid-July and creating an overall economic benefit of more than \$1 million.
- ▶ The Tourism & Economic Development staff successfully recruited Spotty Dog Productions of New York to use Fort Pierce Central High School as the backdrop of a national advertising campaign for General Motor's new hybrid pickup trucks.

growth management

In an effort to better reflect its role in shaping the future of St. Lucie County, the Community Development Division changed its name to Growth Management. Additionally, the Department merged two of its Divisions combining Tourism and Economic Development. Growth Management is now comprised of four divisions: Administration, Planning, Geographic Information Systems and Tourism and Economic Development. In addition, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is now part of the Administration Division. With a staff of 25 people in professional, technical and clerical positions, the Department provides guidance, technical support and administrative services for tourism promotion, economic development incentives, property, land use and development related matters to not only the Board of County Commissioners, but also the Planning and Zoning Commission; Board of Adjustment; the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and various other Board appointed committees and task forces.

Animal Planet's reality show "King of the Jungle" filmed the second and third seasons at Adams Ranch in Fort Pierce.



The Sunrise Theatre, built in 1923. Photo courtesy of Main Street Fort Pierce.



human resources

The Human Resources Department is comprised of six employees for Employee and Labor Relations, three for the Risk Management Division and two part-time employees for the mailroom to serve a workforce of over 800 employees.

information technology

The mission of the Information Technology Department is to provide the solutions, tools and support that ensures the highest possible return on our customer's investment in information systems. The function of Information Technology is to provide our customers with: a robust and stable network environment; innovative web research, design and support; dependable quality hardware, software, operations and customer service support; diverse application and database support and advanced and cost effective technology solutions. While maintaining the existing infrastructure, Information Technology also recommends and implements new technology to meet the needs of our customers for the future. The department has 55 positions to provide support to the County organization, covering over 35 locations and the 19th Circuit Judicial Courts System, which includes the four-county Treasure Coast area.

*Information Technology
employee Erik Pentz*



Human Resources Accomplishments:

- ▶ Provided 19 Indian River Community College Training classes.
- ▶ Processed over 2,544 applications from the public and hired 160 new employees.
- ▶ Introduced the Retiree Health Benefit Incentive for employees.
- ▶ Conducted personnel related training for staff in regards to employee discipline procedures.
- ▶ Realized a significant reduction in total workers compensation payments through awareness and education.
- ▶ Conducted a Health and Safety Fair to promote workplace safety and wellness awareness to employees and their families.
- ▶ Provided workplace safety training for over 300 employees.



*Inside the P.P. Cobb building. Photo courtesy
of Main Street Fort Pierce.*

Information Technology Accomplishments:

- ▶ Completed over 16,000 work order requests.
- ▶ Installed 134 new desktop PCs under the third year of the PC Replacement Program.
- ▶ Upgraded over 400 desktop PCs under the first year of the PC Refresh Program.
- ▶ Added Growth Management and Code Compliance to the County PBX system.
- ▶ Provided Computer Training for over 200 County employees.

Library Accomplishments:

- ▶ Began offering Sunday hours at the Morningside Branch Library.
- ▶ Expanded children's outreach services to local day care centers as a result of the approval of a new Children's Outreach Librarian position.
- ▶ Officially opened the Zora Neale Hurston Dust Track Heritage Trail in March and provide a virtual tour of the Trail on the internet.
- ▶ Significantly expanded library's DVD collection.
- ▶ Began offering bi-weekly assistance at the Fort Pierce Branch Library to the members of the public interested in tracing their family history through Treasure Coast Genealogy Society volunteers.
- ▶ Increased number of Young Adult and Adult programs to promote local authors and to encourage more residents to write, read and produce new forms of literature.

library

The Library Department is responsible for providing access to high-interest and popular reading materials at all public libraries, as well as providing accurate and up-to-date reference/information service at all locations. The library provides programs for children from ages 0-17 throughout the year and programs for the adult population via outside speakers and authors. Library services are offered through five branch locations, one Bookmobile, Books-by-mail program, Nursing Home rotating collection and through a library cooperative on the St. Lucie West Campus of Indian River Community College/Florida Atlantic University. The library has 77 employees and 55 volunteers.



Zora Neale Hurston pictured at the 1937 New York Times' Book Fair.

Susan Kilmer, Library Director, speaks at the Zora Neale Hurston Dust Tracks Heritage Trail dedication ceremony.



media relations

The Media Relations Department consists of four employees, one Technical Operations Manager and two Media Specialists for SLCTV and the Public Information Officer. The mission of the department is to promote and enhance St. Lucie County through consistent, professional high quality imagery via television (SLCTV), publications and media relations.



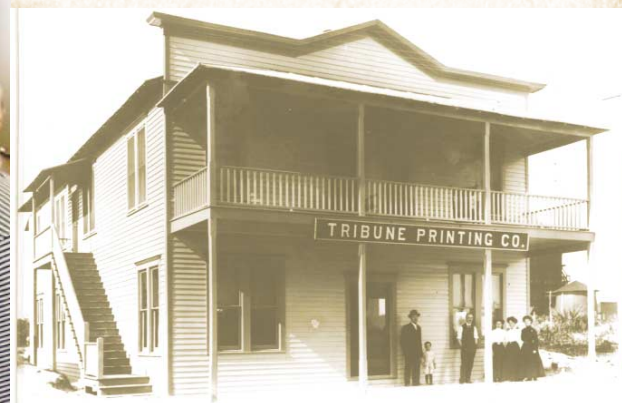
The Media Relations Department coordinated the Jail Expansion Ground Breaking Ceremony.

Media Relations Accomplishments:

- ▶ Coordinated national and international press information related to Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne.
- ▶ Created and distributed "A September to Remember"—a DVD compilation about St. Lucie County during Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne.
- ▶ Coordinated media for the visits of President George W. Bush, Governor Jeb Bush and several other high ranking officials.
- ▶ Coordinated ground breaking ceremonies, dedications and ribbon cutting ceremonies for the Adams Ranch Equestrian Arena, the Zora Neale Hurston Dust Tracks Heritage Trail, "The Partnership" sculpture, the rededication of Highwayman Alfred Hair's gravesite, the Lakewood Park Regional Park, Taylor Creek dredging project and the St. Lucie County jail expansion.
- ▶ Aired live election results for the Primary and General Elections of 2004.
- ▶ Published and distributed the Investment for the Future tabloid in January and July to 49,278 households throughout the County.
- ▶ Began airing Code Enforcement Board meetings in addition to the Board of County Commission Meetings and Metropolitan Planning Organization meetings.



President George W. Bush poses with the Public Information Officers at the Emergency Operations Center during his visit to St. Lucie County after Hurricane Frances.



The Tribune Newspaper building on South Second Street in Fort Pierce in 1909. Photo courtesy of Main Street Fort Pierce.

Mosquito Control District Accomplishments:

- ▶ Maintained effective control of nuisance mosquitoes through Integrated Pest Management practices with over 1.4 million acres controlled and nearly 4,000 acres of coastal wetlands managed.
- ▶ Completed Bear Point Mitigation Bank permitting and construction and began reef ball program to work as fish attractant devices.
- ▶ Combated a Red Tide-like organism known as Takayama Pulchella all summer, which originated in the Atlantic Ocean and spread for miles in the Indian River Lagoon.
- ▶ Completed public access construction activities at Blind Creek Park—Ocean to River.
- ▶ Controlled arboviral transmission from unprecedented post-Hurricane mosquito levels.



Gale on October 18, 1910. Photo courtesy of the St. Lucie County Historical Museum.

County Attorney Accomplishments:

- ▶ Acquired parcels of land including parcels at the North Fork of the St. Lucie River Phase III, Indrio Blueway Buffer, Lakewood Park Regional Park and Research and Education Park.
- ▶ Acquired rights-of-way needed for intersection improvements at U.S. 1 and Weatherbee Road and East Torino Parkway and Midway Road.
- ▶ Acquired property needed for Platts Creek Stormwater Pond project and the White City Canal D Drainage Project.

mosquito control district

The Mosquito Control District is a dependent taxing district, overseen by its own Board and the State of Florida, Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control, Mosquito Control Section. The District uses a variety of tools to monitor and control the mosquito population. Most people are familiar with the mosquito trucks that are used for spraying mosquitoes, but the service of the Mosquito Control District also includes monitoring programs, trapping, analysis of environmental information and use of impoundments. The Mosquito Control District encompasses 301 square miles within St. Lucie County. The District employs 22 full-time and 14 part-time/temporary positions in the following four divisions: administration, biology, ground adulticiding and impoundment operations.

county attorney

The primary function of the County Attorney's Office is to provide legal representation and advice to the Board of County Commissioners and its staff. Other functions include attendance at meetings of the Board and advisory committee meetings and various other meetings of various bodies as directed by the Board of County Commissioners; provide legal service for the constitutional officers and coordinate the efforts of other attorneys representing constitutional officers and other governmental bodies as required. Additionally, the County Attorney's Office initiates, presents and conducts litigation brought on behalf of the Board and defends or actively participates in the defense of actions brought against the County at both the trial and appellate levels in State and Federal Courts.

The Property Acquisition Division under the County Attorney maintains original deeds and documents of properties acquired by the County for subdivisions, roads, easements, environmental lands, and various projects that take place in the County.

Construction of the Platts Creek Stormwater Project in White City.



parks & recreation

Parks & Recreation Accomplishments:

The mission of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide customer-focused parks and recreation services that meets the needs of St. Lucie County residents. The Parks and Recreation Department is divided into several divisions including Parks, Recreation, Administration, Fairgrounds and the Golf Course. The divisions maintain, operate, program and facilitate the following venues: 25 baseball fields, 10 outdoor basketball courts, three outdoor bocce ball courts, one mobile sound stage, five sets of transportable bleachers, 12 batting cages, one campground, 24 outdoor shuffleboard courts, two



Residents and County Commissioners break ground on the new \$13 million Lakewood Park Regional Park.

outdoor racquetball courts, three soccer fields, six softball fields, three swimming pools, 24 tennis courts, six outdoor volleyball courts, three outdoor walking tracks, one bicycling trail, two equestrian trails, fitness course/trail, one nature trail, one 18-hole golf course, one sports complex with seven professional baseball fields, one Civic Center/Convention Center, one Fairground and seven watercraft launching areas. Parks and Recreation maintains a departmental budget of over \$11,500,000 and employs 135 full-time employees, 33 yearly and seasonal part-time employees.

The Adams Family poses in front of the new Adams Ranch Equestrian Arena at the ribbon cutting ceremony.



► Parks & Recreation

- Awarded Clean Beaches Council's Blue Wave Beach Cleanest Beach nomination for Pepper Park.
- Completed the \$10 million Tradition Field stadium renovations.
- Won "Best Municipality Award" for the Grounds Crew at Tradition Field.
- Completed the Lawnwood football field resurfacing/renovation.
- Broke ground on the Lakewood Park Regional Park.
- Opened Maravilla Recreation Center.
- Completed a \$225,000 renovation of the Port St. Lucie Pool.

► Fairgrounds:

- Completed the Adams Ranch Equestrian Arena at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds complete with sound, lights and fixed bleacher seating for 3,450.
- Completed renovations by adding ticket booths & improving landscape.
- Used facility as an emergency staging area during Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne.
- Completed the Adams Ranch Equestrian Arena

► Fairwinds Golf Course

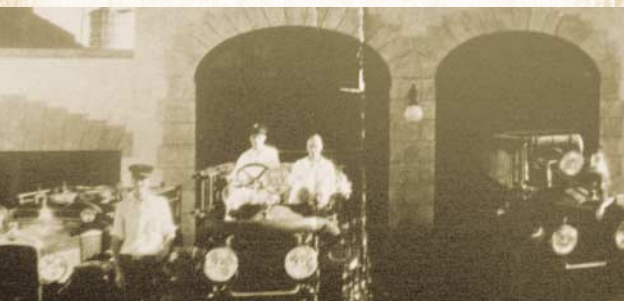
- Received Golf Digest's Award for Best Golf Course (second only to Pebble Beach Golf Course).
- Voted best golf course to play on the Treasure Coast by the readers of the Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers.
- Completed the golf cart path project and bunker restoration project.



Fishing off Ten Mile Creek, 1902. Photo courtesy of the St. Lucie County Historical Museum.

Animal Control Accomplishments:

- ▶ Handled 10,400 complaints, 106 bite cases, 210 vicious animal reports and investigated 284 cruelty cases.
- ▶ Transported 1,868 animals to the Humane Society.
- ▶ Educated citizens through numerous presentations at schools and neighborhood associations.



Firehouse, Avenue A near Historic City Hall. Photo courtesy of the St. Lucie County Historical Museum.

Radiological Planning Accomplishments:

- ▶ Trained 942 personnel throughout the Treasure Coast.
- ▶ Coordinated a nuclear power plant practice exercise and a federal evaluated drill involving Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie and St. Lucie County agencies, Martin, Palm Beach, Indian River Counties and State Division of Emergency Management resulting in the highest possible rating.
- ▶ Validated the Special Needs Registry during January and June.
- ▶ Distributed the Nuclear Power Plant Safety Planning Booklet to 123,000 addresses within to 10-mile emergency planning zone.
- ▶ Completed the changes to the State of Florida Radiological Emergency Plan for the State Division of Emergency Management.
- ▶ Conducted quarterly tests of the St. Lucie Siren System to maintain public awareness of its function and ensure its operability.
- ▶ Acted as chief meteorologist at the Emergency Operations Center during Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne.

public safety

The Public Safety Department consists of Animal Control, Radiological Planning, 911 Central Communications Center, Emergency Management and Marine Safety.

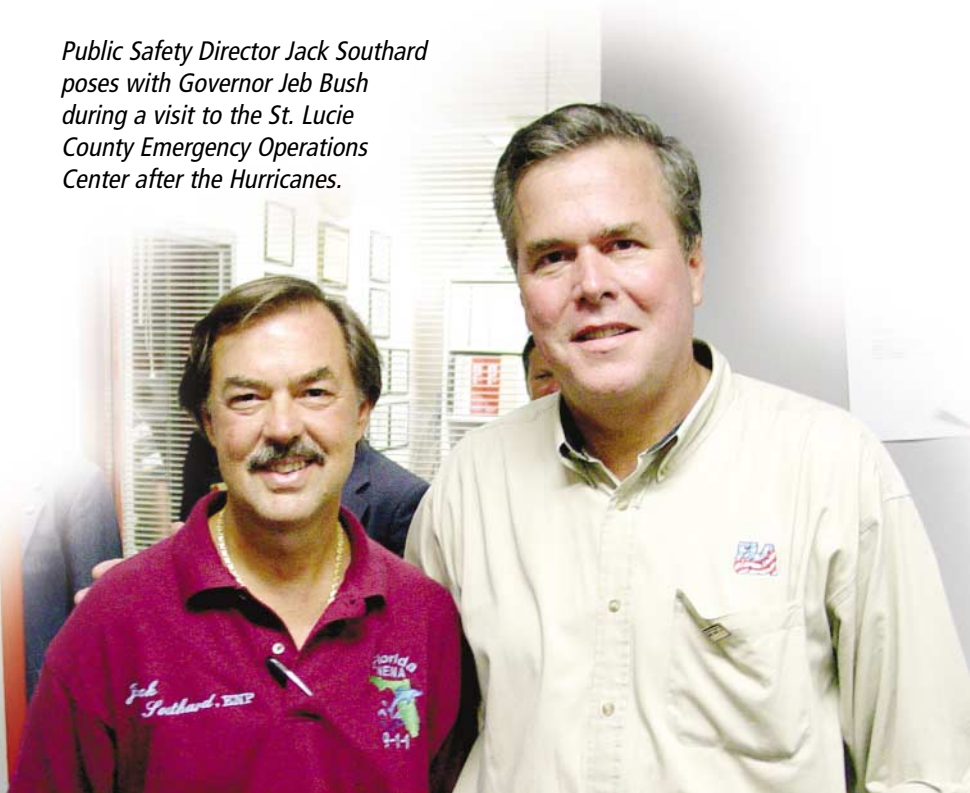
animal control

The Animal Control Division is responsible for enforcing the county ordinances and the state statutes pertaining to animals. The staff consists of one coordinator, two full-time officers and two part-time officers.

radiological planning

The Radiological Coordinator, with one clerical staff, coordinates disaster planning and mitigation involving Florida Power and Light's Nuclear Power Plant located on South Hutchinson Island. Local and state plans are reviewed annually, changes are coordinated with the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management, Florida Power and Light Emergency Planning as well as affected counties within a 50-mile radius of the plant site. Local plans for transport of special needs individuals, registered with the Division of Emergency Management, are reviewed annually, required changes are coordinated with local transit authority and ambulance services. The Special Needs Registry, averaging about 500 county residents, is maintained on a daily basis. Radiological training is planned and conducted annually for all law enforcement, fire/rescue personnel, school bus drivers, local ambulance services, transit authorities, county and municipal agencies. Annual nuclear power plant exercises and medical transport drills are planned and coordinated with federal state and local agencies.

Public Safety Director Jack Southard poses with Governor Jeb Bush during a visit to the St. Lucie County Emergency Operations Center after the Hurricanes.



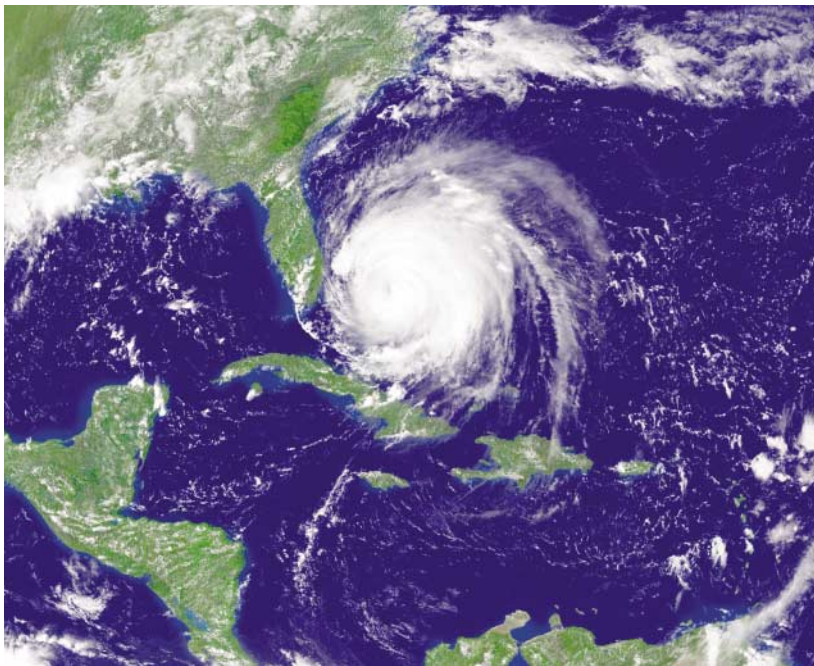
911 Communications Center Accomplishments:

911 communications center

The 911 Central Communications Center handles all the 911 calls for fire, rescue and law enforcement for the City of Fort Pierce, the City of Port St. Lucie and the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office which includes the unincorporated areas of the County. The Center also dispatches all calls to the County Animal Control Officers. The Center employs 54 full-time employees and 10 part-time employees.

emergency management

A coordinator and one administrative employee operate Emergency Management. The Emergency Management Division handles and coordinates all major emergencies within the incorporated and unincorporated local jurisdictions.



Hurricane Frances Approaches Florida, Photo by NASA and NOAA

marine safety

Marine Safety consists of nine full-time, three part-time and 10 summer time temporary employees. All full-time employees are required to have an Emergency Medical Technician State Certification as a minimum. Supervisors train for all terrain vehicles, personal watercraft as well as managerial training. There are 11 lifeguard towers throughout St. Lucie County, six of which are manned all year round including Pepper Park, South Beach Boardwalk, Kimberly Bergalis, Surfside, Jaycee Park, Frederick Douglas and Waveland Beach. The remaining towers are occupied Memorial Day to Labor Day.

- ▶ Handled 25,943 calls for Hurricane Frances and Jeanne.
- ▶ Coordinated the Hurricane Information Hotline during the Emergency Operations Center activation for the storms.
- ▶ Handled 248,774 "911" calls from January 1 through October 31.
- ▶ Upgraded the "911" operating system and back room equipment to handle wireless calls coming into the center.

Emergency Management Accomplishments:

- ▶ Tracked 13 named tropical storms during the 2004 Tropical Storm Season.
- ▶ Activated for two major hurricane landfalls within a month—Hurricane Frances and Jeanne.
- ▶ Responded to over 40 call-outs including hazardous material spills, fires and other emergency incidents.
- ▶ Conducted site visits for approximately 45 facilities with hazardous substances and compiled data to be used for emergency response.

Marine Safety Accomplishments:

- ▶ Saw over 500,000 visitors to the guarded beaches.
- ▶ Took over 10,000 preventative actions including 61 medical aids, 14 major medical actions, zero lost patrons, 29 water rescues and zero fatalities.
- ▶ Broadcast daily beach reports on 88.9 FM WQCS and St. Lucie County website.
- ▶ Manned 24-hour Hurricane Information Hotline during Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne.
- ▶ Worked with the Community Services Department and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Blue Roof Program to install tarps on homes after the hurricanes.

Code Compliance Accomplishments:

- ▶ Issued 14,352 permits, a 28% increase, resulting in 76,214 inspections—an increase of 23% over 2003.
- ▶ Maintained a 48-hour response time to all code complaints and 24-hour response time to any life-safety complaint.
- ▶ Handled 1,200 code enforcement cases per officer.
- ▶ Handled 8,052 cases with 464 cases going before the Code Enforcement Board.
- ▶ Issued over 100 temporary roofing licenses after Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne.
- ▶ Generated 275 cases on unlicensed contractors during the month of October.



*Tom Tye drove this early road building equipment.
Photo courtesy of the St. Lucie County
Historical Museum.*

Solid Waste Accomplishments:

- ▶ Processed 385,392 tons of waste—recovered 41,937 tons for recycling.
- ▶ Completed construction of the \$4 million Construction and Demolition Recycling Facility.
- ▶ Toured representatives of eight countries from around the world at the Solid Waste Baling and Recycling Facility.

public works

The Public Works Department consists of the following divisions: Administration, Code Compliance, Engineering, Environmental Resources, Erosion Control, Road and Bridge and Solid Waste.

code compliance division

St. Lucie County continues to grow at a rapid pace and the Code Compliance Division is meeting the challenge with an increase in personnel and implementing new software to meet the ever-increasing demand from permits to inspections. Construction value has reached near the \$250 million mark resulting in \$249,214,821 of total construction value. Single-family homes have increased 36.7% over 2003 with a total of 946 homes being permitted. Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne had a great impact on the annual numbers resulting in the lowest monthly totals for the year. However, the division still exceeded last year's numbers. The Code Compliance Division consists of Permitting, Building Inspections, Contractor's Licensing and Code Enforcement.



*Hurricanes destroyed
many mobile homes
in St. Lucie County.*

solid waste

The Solid Waste Baling and Recycling Facility is a 331-acre site that receives and processes solid waste products from residents and commercial properties in St. Lucie County.

Erosion District Accomplishments:

erosion district

The St. Lucie County Erosion District was created in 1967 by a special act of the Florida Legislature to provide a means to manage beach erosion problems in St. Lucie County. The Erosion District is dedicated to providing technical expertise and sound engineering judgment in evaluating beach erosion and inlet management issues. The District is primarily responsible for planning and coordinating beach, environmental and coastal issues with local, state and federal agencies. Additional duties include management of the artificial reef program. The District is also responsible for preparation of a fiscal budget, project administration and management, overseeing consultant contracts and seeking funding assistance.

environmental resources division

The Environmental Resources Division (ERD) has 16 employees in three operating units: Regulatory, Land Management and Education/Outreach. The ERD is responsible for the development, permitting, protection and enhancement of the natural resources of the properties acquired the County and being developed in the County. This includes habitat restoration, land management and public access on environmental lands in accordance with approved management plans that will provide passive educational programs to the public through guided and self-guided tour programs. In addition, the ERD is responsible for education and outreach for children and adults and for reviewing upcoming development proposals in St. Lucie County to ensure compliance with the Comprehensive Plan and the Land Development Code. The ERD has more than 100 volunteers that contributed approximately 2,500 hours over the past year.

*Visitors to the Oxbow Eco-Center's Earth Day Event
participate in a Birding Hike.*



- ▶ Coordinated renourishment (400,000 cubic yards) of a segment of shoreline immediately south of the Fort Pierce Inlet with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- ▶ Completed construction of the North Causeway Island Shoreline Stabilization project.
- ▶ Assisted in securing \$750,000 and \$75,000 of federal funds for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to continue with various activities associated with the Fort Pierce Beach project and feasibility phase of the St. Lucie County shoreline respectively.
- ▶ Submitted applications to re-permit artificial reef sites.

Environmental Resources Accomplishments:

- ▶ Purchased 150 acres adjacent to the Paleo Hammock Natural Area.
- ▶ Designed and distributed 10,000 educational brochures regarding the County's natural areas, sea turtle protection, gopher tortoises, and dune plantings.
- ▶ Lead 21 programs on the County's natural areas with a total attendance of 150 people.
- ▶ Processed over 700 vegetation removal/exemption permits—an increase of 40% over 2003.
- ▶ Purchased a large watering truck to augment the Plant Rescue Program.
- ▶ Saw over 10,000 visitors at the Oxbow Eco-Center to hike the trails, attend guided tours and programs or visit the centers' exhibits and attracted over 2,000 participants to special events.
- ▶ Trained 63 teachers through In-Service Workshops including the Watershed Program, Project WET and Envirothon.
- ▶ Received an award for the Plant Rescue Program from the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals.

Road and Bridge Accomplishments:

- ▶ Installed 1,306 signs and posts and 143 feet of guardrail.
- ▶ Restriped 51 miles of roadway.
- ▶ Resurfaced 16 miles of roadway.

Engineering Accomplishments:

- ▶ Implemented construction of Wal-Mart Distribution Center-related roadway improvements including Midway Road and Glades Cutoff Road intersection expansion, Midway Road and Torino intersection expansion and Jenkins Road extension.
- ▶ Initiated construction of Platt's Creek Regional Stormwater Pond on Sunrise Boulevard.
- ▶ Initiated construction of Edwards Road and Selvitz Road intersection expansion project.
- ▶ Managed and coordinated the removal of 600,000 cubic yards of hurricane debris resulting from Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne.
- ▶ Completed bridge repairs for Glades Cutoff Road over C24 Canal and Juanita Avenue over Whispering Creek Bridge.
- ▶ Completed design and construction of Bluefield Ranch Access Road.
- ▶ Initiated construction of \$30 million Hurricane-related repairs to Indian River Drive.

public works (cont.)

road and bridge

The Road and Bridge Division has 83 employees, plus 16 contract labor employees. The Division has four Operating Units—Maintenance, Traffic, Drainage and Stormwater—and is responsible for providing maintenance and reconstructing of County roadways and drainage facilities. The Maintenance Section is responsible for maintaining 348 miles of paved roadways, 119 miles of rock/dirt roads, and 46 miles of asphalt milled roads. Road maintenance includes right-of-way mowing, surface patching, shoulder repair, and grading of dirt roads. The Traffic Section is responsible for designing new signals; the maintenance, repair and operation of existing signals and flashers; the fabrication of regulation, warning and street signs; the installation of signs; the application annually of roadway thermoplastic stripping and marking of paved roadways; conducting traffic counts and traffic operation studies; maintaining the County's accident data base. The Drainage Unit is responsible for the mechanical cleaning of 1,100+ miles of roadway ditches/swales and 50+ miles of primary drainways/canals. The unit includes two small construction crews utilized for MSBU related roadway/drainage construction, as well as drop inlet, culvert, and similar drainage construction projects. This section manages the roadway-resurfacing program and the Driveway Permit Inspections for the County.

engineering

The Engineering Division proposes, designs and implements projects in stormwater management, transportation system enhancements and infrastructure maintenance. The Engineering Division implements the Stormwater Management Program and the Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU).

*Repair work to Indian River Drive
after Hurricane Jeanne.*



utilities

The current St. Lucie County Utilities was established in 1994. St. Lucie County Utilities has established water and wastewater utility service areas on North and South Hutchinson Island and in the Mainland North County areas. The Utility Department has undergone many improvements throughout all the systems as a result of continued growth.

veterans services

The Veterans Services Department's mission is to serve St. Lucie County's veterans and their families with dignity and compassion and be their principal advocate in ensuring that they receive medical care, benefits and social support. Veterans Services is customer-focused, functioning as a team to deliver the means of improving the quality of life to more than 37,000 veterans living in St. Lucie County. The close involvement with the staff from the West Palm Beach Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center remains a productive tool in bringing more medical benefits to veterans in the county. Active participation with nursing homes, assisted living facilities and more than 68 social agencies throughout the County enable the staff to provide a network of support necessary to promote the health, welfare and dignity of veterans and their families. The St. Lucie County Veterans Advisory Council plays an important role in the day-to-day operations. Thirty-one member organizations meet monthly to discuss and share information that has a direct impact on the benefits and medical service for veterans. Veterans Services Department consists of six full-time staff, one part-time employee and eight on-call Veterans Medical Transportation Drivers.

Utilities Accomplishments:

- ▶ Upgraded four lift stations at the South Hutchinson Island district.
- ▶ Completed the reclaimed water line extension under a grant from the South Florida Water Management District at the North Hutchinson Island district.
- ▶ Implemented the Airport District and installed over 50 meters on airport property and a sewer line extension at the Airport Industrial Park.
- ▶ Completed construction of a surge tank and reinstallation of the clarifier at the North County district (Holiday Pines) wastewater plant.



*Barracks for the UDT training base, Fort Pierce
(no screens made this a "Mosquito Hell").
Photo courtesy of the Navy SEAL Museum.*

Veterans Services Accomplishments:

- ▶ Counseled 11,809 veterans and/or their dependents, a 10% increase over 2003.
- ▶ Made more than 100 on-site client visits including assisted living facilities, nursing homes and private residences, to process benefit requests to veterans not able to visit the office.
- ▶ Submitted 5,229 veterans benefit claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- ▶ Aided veterans living in the County in receiving more than \$15,000,000 in monetary benefits.
- ▶ Provided 5,271 medical transportation trips for disabled veterans.

Purchasing Accomplishments:

- ▶ Bid and awarded \$20.5 million Design/Build jail expansion project.
- ▶ Bid and awarded \$7.1 million Design/Build Lakewood Park Regional Park project.
- ▶ Enhanced the Purchasing Card function by allowing services to be charged.
- ▶ Produced savings through reduction in mailing and printing cost of purchase orders with an increase in Purchasing Card transactions.

purchasing

The Purchasing Department is responsible for the procurement of goods and services used by all County Departments. It is the objective of the County to purchase the necessary supplies, equipment and services at the lowest possible cost consistent with the quality needed to meet its requirement and to ensure that our County citizens receive the maximum value for each dollar expended.

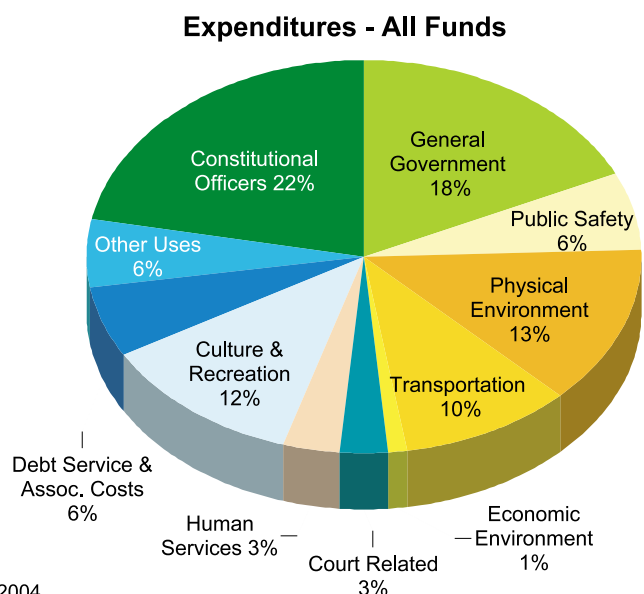
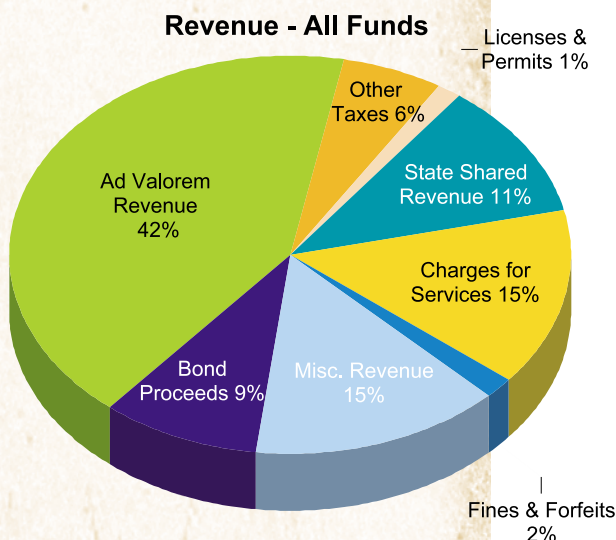
Management & Budget Accomplishments:

- ▶ Managed the County's \$391.2 million 2004 fiscal year budget.
- ▶ Received the Government Finance Officers Association's "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award" for the sixth consecutive year.
- ▶ Monitored 50 individual debt obligations issued by the Board and ensured the payments, totaling approximately \$11,699,651, were made in a timely manner.
- ▶ Oversaw the management of 115 grants valued at \$47,978,686.
- ▶ Processed 2,465 line-to-line transfers, which is 359 transfers less than fiscal year 2003.

management & budget

The mission of the Office of Management and Budget is to provide information, analysis and staff support sufficient for the County Administrator and the Board of County Commissioners to make well-informed financial, program and management decisions. The department's responsibilities include being a point of contact for departmental budget issues, grants oversight, revenue and expenditure forecasting, monitoring the debt schedule and funds, estimating cash balances, conducting statistical analysis, developing pro forma models and preparing studies at the request of the County Administrator or the Board. The department's staff of professionals includes a director, budget manager, two senior analysts, three budget analysts, one analyst intern and an executive secretary.

Fiscal Year 2004 Actual Revenue and Expenditures



Note: Amts. are based on unaudited information gathered as of November 15, 2004.

department listings

Phone Numbers (All numbers are area code 772)

Airport	462-1732
Board of County Commissioners.	462-1400
Building Department.	462-1553
Central Services	462-1432
Community Services.	462-1777
Cooperative Extension.	462-1660
County Administrator	462-1450
County Attorney's Office.	462-1441
Cultural Affairs.	462-2548
Grants	462-1467
Growth Management	462-1590
Human Resources.	462-1546
Information Technology	462-1681
Library System	462-1615
Management & Budget.	462-1670
Media Relations	462-1791
Mosquito Control.	462-1692
Parks & Recreation.	462-1517
Public Safety.	462-1770
Public Works.	462-2178
Purchasing	462-1739
Road and Bridge	462-1435
Solid Waste.	462-1768
Utilities	462-1150
Veterans Services	871-5416

**St. Lucie County
Administration Offices**
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, Florida 34982

**St. Lucie West
Administration Annex**
250 N.W. Country Club Drive
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986

**Walton Road Annex
(Opening Spring 2005)**
1664 S.E. Walton Road
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34952



*Original St. Lucie County Courthouse on
North Second Street built in 1907. Photo
courtesy of the St. Lucie County Historical Museum.*

constitutional officers



*First Clerk of the Court, John E. Fultz
of Spruce Bluff (Port St. Lucie).
Photo courtesy of the St. Lucie County
Historical Museum.*



Clerk of Court Edwin M Fry, Jr.

Main Courthouse
218 S. Second Street
Fort Pierce, FL 34950
(772) 462-6900

Finance Department
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

South County Annex
250 N.W. Country Club Dr.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986
(772) 871-5384

**Orange Blossom
Business Center**
4132 Okeechobee Road
Fort Pierce, FL 34947

Juvenile Division
435 N. 7th Street
Fort Pierce, FL 34950
(772) 462-6800

www.slclerkofcourt.com



Property Appraiser Jeff Furst

Main Office
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

South County Annex
250 N.W. Country Club Dr.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986

Walton Road Annex
(Opening Spring 2005)
1664 S.E. Walton Road
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952
(772) 462-1000

www.paslc.org



Sheriff Ken J. Mascara

Main Office
4700 W. Midway Road
Fort Pierce, FL 34981
(772) 462-7300

www.stluciesheriff.com



Supervisor of Elections Gertrude Walker

Main Office
4132 Okeechobee Road
Fort Pierce, FL 34947
(772) 462-1500

South County Annex
250 N.W. Country Club Dr.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986
(772) 871-5410

Walton Road Annex
(Opening Spring 2005)
1664 S.E. Walton Road
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952
(772) 337-5623

www.slcelections.com



Tax Collector Bob Davis

Main Office
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

South County Annex
250 N.W. Country Club Dr.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986

Walton Road Annex
(Opening Spring 2005)
1664 S.E. Walton Road
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(772) 462-1650

www.tclsc.com



2004 St. Lucie County Annual Report

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Fort Pierce, FL 34982
(772) 462-1100
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